

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4914

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2629

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), PFOR, US, DR, EAID, SHUM

SUBJECTC AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH DOMINICAN FOREIGN
SECRETARY JIMENEZ

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 14 AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND
HURWITCH AND MEMBERS OF YOUNG'S PARTY MET FOR 45
MINUTES WITH DOMINICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ. JIMENEZ
EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER ENDING US SUGAR LEGISLATION,
SUPPORTED THE COSTA RICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER
PROPOSAL -- BUT WITH THREE COMMISSIONERS INSTEAD OF ONE,
INDICATED SUPPORT FOR OUR TORTURE INITIATIVE, NOTED THE
GODR'S RECENT EFFORTS TO BECOME MORE A PART OF THE
CARIBBEAN, EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CONDITIONS IN HAITI AND
A DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL AND STRESSED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE
THE GODR ATTACHES TO ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE US AND HIS
PLEASURE AT YOUNG'S VISIT. END SUMMARY

2. GENERAL: ON AUGUST 14 AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND HURWITCH,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON, AID ADMINISTRATOR FOR
LA VALDEZ, ARA/ PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI, DEPTUY HUMAN RIGHTS
COORDINATOR SCHNEIDER, NSC INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
OFFICER HORMATS AND USUN MISOFF DISCUSSED A RANGE
OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES IN A CORDIAL
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45-MINUTE MEETING WITH DOMINICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY
JIMENEZ. COMMENTING ON HIS VISIT THAT MORNING TO
AN AID-ASSISTED AGRICULTURAL PROJECT OF THE DOMINICAN
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND AID-ASSISTED PUBLIC HEALTH
ACTIVITIES AT FONDO NEGRO IN BARAHONA PROVINCE, YOUNG
NOTED THE GREAT PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN THE
PAST TWO YEARS AND, IN PARTICULAR, COMMUNITY INVOLVE-

MENT IN HEALTH PROGRAMS. YOUNG ALSO REVIEWED PANAMA CANAL TREATY DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS ALONG THE LINES ALREADY REPORTED. IN RESPONSE TO JIMENEZ'S QUERY, YOUNG NOTED THAT AMONG THE ISSUES WHICH WILL PROBABLY COME UP AT THE NEXT GA ARE: BELIZE, TIMOR AND THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE THINGS HAVE BROKEN DOWN.

3. SUGAR: IN RESPONSE TO JIMENEZ'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF NEW US SUGAR LEGISLATION ON THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY, WHICH IS ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON SUGAR EXPORTS FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE, YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE LEGISLATION HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN A HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE AND STILL FACED CONSIDERATION BY THE FULL HOUSE, THEN BY A JOINT SENATE-HOUSE COMMITTEE AND FINALLY A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL VETO. HORMATS NOTED THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE LEGISLATION ON THE CARIBBEAN. THE USG COMMITMENT TO AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT (ISA) HE SAID, WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WE SOUGHT AN AGREEMENT WITH ADEQUATE NATIONAL STOCKING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ALSO PERMITTED USE OF QUOTES TO PROTECT THE FLOOR PRICES. WE SOUGHT AN AGREEMENT WHICH ADDRESSED THE INTERESTS OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WAS OPPOSITION
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TO EXPORT QUOTAS FROM THE EUROPEANS. JIMENEZ AGREED THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEANS HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW, BUT SAID HE HOPED US/CARIBBEAN COOPERATION WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO WORK THINGS OUT. HORMATS SAID THAT MANY IN THE US CONGRESS ARE INCLINED TOWARD UNILATERAL TARIFF INCREASES BUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FAVORS ISA AS A FAR MORE DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE. UNLESS AGREEMENT IS REACHED AS AN ISA, HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CONGRESS WILL INCREASE TARIFFS. JIMENEZ NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN BUYER IS SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO CUT DOWN ON SUGAR PURCHASES WHEN THE PRICES GET TOO HIGH AND COMMENTED ON THE RELATION OF US SUGAR PRICES TO CORN PRICES. JIMENEZ SAID PRESIDENT BALAGUER IS COMMITTED TO AN EQUITABLE PRICE STRUCTURE FOR ALL COMMODITIES -- INCLUDING OIL, IMPORTS OF WHICH WERE ABSORBING MUCH OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S SUGAR EARNINGS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2629

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM SCHNEIDER, JIMENEZ OTED THAT HE THOUGHT THE DR WOULD SHORTLY SIGN THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. (INTRODUCING YOUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH FOLLOWED A LATER MEETING WITH BALAGUER, JIMENEZ ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO SIGN THE CONVENTION.) JIMENEZ ALSO SAID THE GODR SUPPORTS THE COSTA RICAN CONCEPT OF A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER, BUT THINKS THE JOB IS TOO BIG FOR ONE PERSON AND WOULD PREFER TO SEE THREE COMMISSIONERS. SCHNEIDER ALSO INFORMED JIMENEZ OF OUR INITIATIVE TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP ON TORTURE. JIMENEZ INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THIS GROUP WHICH HE CONCEIVED OF AS REPORTING BACK TO THE COMMISSION; HE HOPED FOR US SUPPORT FOR DR REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMISSION. HE SAID THE GODR WOULD BE HONORED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH INITIATIVES -- PERHAPS AS A CO-SPONSOR.

5. THE CARIBBEAN: YOUNG NOTED TWO IDEAS WHICH HAVE EMERGED FROM THE TRIP: (1) THE SIMILARITY OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND (2) THE NEED FOR THE US TO FIND A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REGION. COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, SUCH AS VENEZUELA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND CANADA
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WILL NEED TO BE A PART OF A CARIBBEAN BASIN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. THERE IS A

CLEAR NEED FOR CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. JIMENEZ RESPONDED THAT HE AGREED WITH THIS LINE OF THINKING. NOTING THAT THE DR HAS HELD ITSELF ALOOF FROM THE CARIBBEAN IN THE PAST, HE SAID THE MOMENT HAS COME TO "GET IN." THERE WAS A RECENT MEETING IN SANTO DOMINGO (ATTENDED ALSO BY CUBA) WHICH ADDRESSED A RANGE OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. THE US MUST BE INCLUDED IN SUCH EFFORTS AND MUST HAVE MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA. IN EXPLANATION FOR DR NON-MEMBERSHIP IN CARICOM, JIMENEZ CITED INITIAL FEARS THAT CUBA WOULD DOMINATE CARICOM AND FEAR THAT THE US DID NOT FAVOR THE ORGANIZATION. JIMENEZ SAID THAT CARICOM HAD PROVED ITS UTILITY AND FEARS OF CUBA DOMINANCE HAD PROVEN UNFOUNDED. AN ADDITIONAL IMPEDIMENT TO DR MEMBERSHIP WAS THE DR'S EXTRATORDINARILY RAPID GROWTH OVER THE LAST DECADE WHICH ALLOWED CONSUMPTION OF DOMINICAN PRODUCTS BY THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY. JIMENEZ NOTED THAT THE DR'S GREAT AGRICULURAL POTENTIAL COULD MAKE IT THE BREADBASKET OF THE CARIBBEAN.

6. HAITI: CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN HAITI, JIMENEZ NOTED THE GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAITI AND THE DR, HAITI'S HISTORY OF DICTATORSHIP, WHICH PROVIDED LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR ORDERED DEVELOPMENT, AND A HAITIAN MENTALITY PREDISPOSED TO DICTATORSHIP. THERE IS A NEED FOR GREATER EFFORTS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE AND A SLOW EVOLUTION WHICH WILL GRADUALLY OVERCOME THE HISTORICALLY-DETERMINED

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PSYCHOLOGICAL PREDISPOSITION TO DICTATORSHIP. JIMENEZ HAS PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE FOUR AGREEMENTS WITH HAITI BUT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PROGRESS. HAITIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS HAS SAID RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE ON TWO OF THEM. THE FOUR AGREEMENTS DEAL WITH COMMERCE, BANKING, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION AND IRRIGATION AND WATER USE. JIMENEZ INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT HAITI SINCE WHAT HAPPENS THERE HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE DR. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM AID ADMINISTRATOR VALDEZ, JIMENEZ SAID WITH REGARD TO HAITI IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR THE US PUBLIC TO THINK OF ECONOMIC AID AS SUPPORT FOR DICTORSHIP. JIMENEZ SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT ECONOMIC AID TO HAITI SHOULD BE TERMINATED OR REDUCED. THE ISSUE WAS TO ENSURE THAT AID REACHED THE PEOPLE. HE RESPONDED TO A QUESTION BY SAYING THIS DID NOT MEAN PROVIDING MORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

GIVEN THE SMALL LEGEL OF CURRENT MILITARY AID --
AIR AND SEA RESCUE TRAINING -- HE SAID IT SHOULD
NOT BE TERMINATED EITHER. ALSO, ITS TERMINATION
CULD CAUSE THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT TO REJECT
ECONOMIC AID AS WELL.

YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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